

IV. REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were presented for prosecution. Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Gunter Ollmann's "Custom HTML Authentication – Best Practices on Securing Custom HTML Authentication Procedures," hereinafter "Ollmann." Claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ollmann in view of "Securing against Denial of Service Attacks (W3C). Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

With regard to the rejection of claims 4 and 12, Applicant has herein amended the claims to better clarify the subject matter. In particular, claim 4 now reads "wherein a request is deemed improper if a message body associated with the request has a zero length." Although not explicitly recited in this manner originally, one skilled in the art would have inherently understood that a zero length request refers to, e.g., an HTTP message request in which a message body was expected, but not submitted. Regardless, Applicant submits that claims 4 and 12 are not indefinite.

With regard to the rejections under 102(a) and 103(a), Applicant submits that Ollmann and W3C fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in numerous claims. For example:

Claim 2 recites: "wherein the system for responding stops issuing HTTP "OK" response codes and issues no response after a predetermined number of improper requests are detected." The Office Action alleges that this feature is taught on page 4, line 6, which actually recites "automatically lockout an account after a threshold has been reached (e.g., three authentication failures)." Applicant submits that this passage does not teach the claimed issuing "no response

after a predetermined number of improper requests.” Instead, this passage teaches locking out an account, which is wholly distinct from the act of stopping the issuance of responses. Locking out an account is commonly understood to mean disallowing further access to an account, even if the user enters a correct name and password.

Moreover, Ollmann explicitly recites continuing to issue an error message after the threshold is reached. “Thus, any further attempts to authenticate will result [in the] display of the same failure message.” Ollmann, page 4, lines 9-10. In other words, Ollmann explicitly teaches that a response, i.e., the same failure message, should be issued even after a predetermined number of improper requests. Thus, Ollmann clearly does not anticipate claim 2. Claims 8, 10 and 18 are allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 4, as amended recites: “wherein a request is deemed improper if a message body associated with the request has a zero length.” The Office Action alleges that this feature is taught on pages 4-5. No such teaching is made regarding zero length message bodies. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 4 (and similarly claim 12) is not anticipated.

Claim 5 recites “wherein a request is deemed improper if an HTTP “post” or an HTTP “get” command is expected and neither an HTTP “post” nor an HTTP “get” command is received.” The Office Action alleges that this feature is taught on page 10 of W3C. Applicant sees no reference or suggestion to post or get commands on page 10 of W3C. A similar argument applies for claims 6, 13 and 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections to these claims.

Claim 8 further recites: “wherein the system for responding to improper requests includes a response protocol that utilizes a standard error handling procedure for a first improper request from a requesting resource, issues an HTTP OK response code for N subsequent improper

requests from the requesting resource, and then stops responding to the requesting resource altogether.” No such teaching is made regarding a three step process as claimed. Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to specifically point out where such a teaching is made, or withdraw the rejection.

Independent claims 10 and 17 recite a similar three step process as that discussed above with respect to claim 8. Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to specifically point out where such a teaching is made, or withdraw the rejection.

Each of the claims not specifically addressed herein is believed allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as their own unique features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant’s undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hoffman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael F. Hoffman
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Dated: 10/03/07

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